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May 22, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

### **Regents Honor Businessman, SLU Professor, SU Retiree**

Baton Rouge businessman Milton J. Womack was recognized by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents today in recognition of his support of a skin cancer prevention program developed by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center called Project Safety (Sun Awareness for Educating Today's Youth). The project which was developed by middle school science and health educators includes a teacher's guide and CD-ROM designed to provide accurate information about the consequences of overexposure to the sun and its role in the development of skin cancer.

Womack, who was represented at today's joint board meeting, by his son-in-law Stephen N. Carville, provided funding for the printing and distribution of the Project Safety materials for middle school science teachers throughout the state.

"We are most appreciative of the support which Mr. Womack has provided because of the potential it has to directly impact the health and welfare of thousands of children in Louisiana. Skin cancer is preventable. This education program is geared toward arming our students with the information they need to make healthy decisions," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

In addition to providing guides to school teachers, Womack's donation provided guides for the Colleges of Education at all public and private universities to be used by future science teachers in their preparation program.

"MD Anderson developed this guide to directly impact the rising rates of skin cancer in this country. We know that if we do not impact individual attitudes by the age of 14, then we have lost an opportunity to cultivate healthy attitudes regarding sun exposure. We set a goal of distributing the guides to all science teachers in the Sun Belt states, thanks to the generosity of Milton Womack Louisiana is the second state to participate fully in this program," said Michael C. Frick, Associate Vice President for Development.

For more information on Project Safety contact Dr. Michael Ahearn at 713/745-1205 or by

(More)

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e-mail at [www.mdanderson.org/projectsafety](http://www.mdanderson.org/projectsafety).

In other board action, the Board of Regents:

- \* Approved the awarding of 65 endowed professorships for campuses throughout the state.
- \* Approved the awarding of Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning University-District subgrants to public and private universities throughout the state.
- \* Approved redesigned teacher preparation programs.

Grades 7-12 undergraduate teacher preparation programs in social studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; McNeese State University; Louisiana State University-Shreveport; Southeastern Louisiana University; and Loyola University;

Grades PK-3 and Grades 7-12 Master Alternative Certification Programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe;

Grades 1-6, Grades 7-12, and Mild/Moderate Special Education Non-Master/Certification-Only Alternative Certification Programs at Louisiana State University-Shreveport;

Grades PK-3, Grades 1-6, Grades 4-8, Grades 7-12 Undergraduate Programs at Dillard University; and

Grades PK-3, Grades 1-6, Grades 4-8, and Grades 7-12 Non-Master/Certification-Only Programs at Northwestern State University, contingent upon the University addressing stipulations pertaining to the differentiation of grade levels within courses and the inclusion of content methodology for the areas of Science and Social Science.

Yesterday, during the Board's committee sessions, two men were recognized for their service to Louisiana postsecondary education. During the Technology Committee meeting, the Board of Regents presented the family of late Southeastern Louisiana University professor Dr. Fred Guillot with a plaque commemorating his service in the cause of technology education in Louisiana. Guillot, a long-time member of the statewide university Faculty Development Training Team, was lauded as a pioneer in technological innovation for the classroom.

Also, at the Facilities Committee meeting, the Board recognized the service of Southern University System Facilities Planning Director Larry McGhee, who will retire on June 30, after 35 years of service.

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